

# Gender and Innovation a Cross cutting program theme

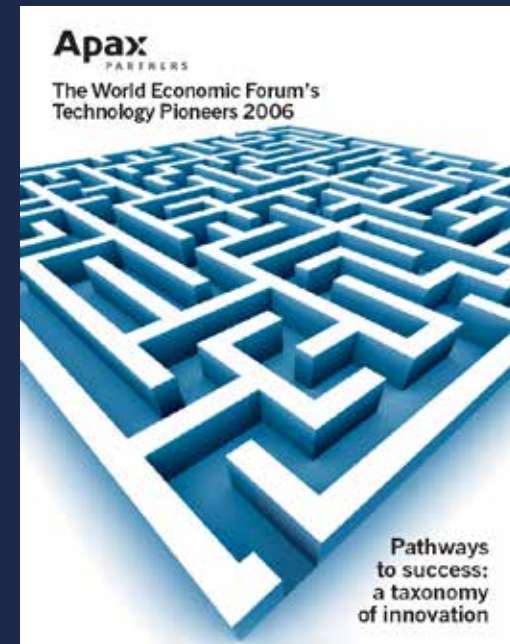
Innovation Technology and Society

IDRC

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There is no right way to innovate – just many different, equally valid, approaches

Pathways to Success: A Taxonomy of Innovation  
The World Economic Forum's Technology Partners  
2006



## What then is Innovation?

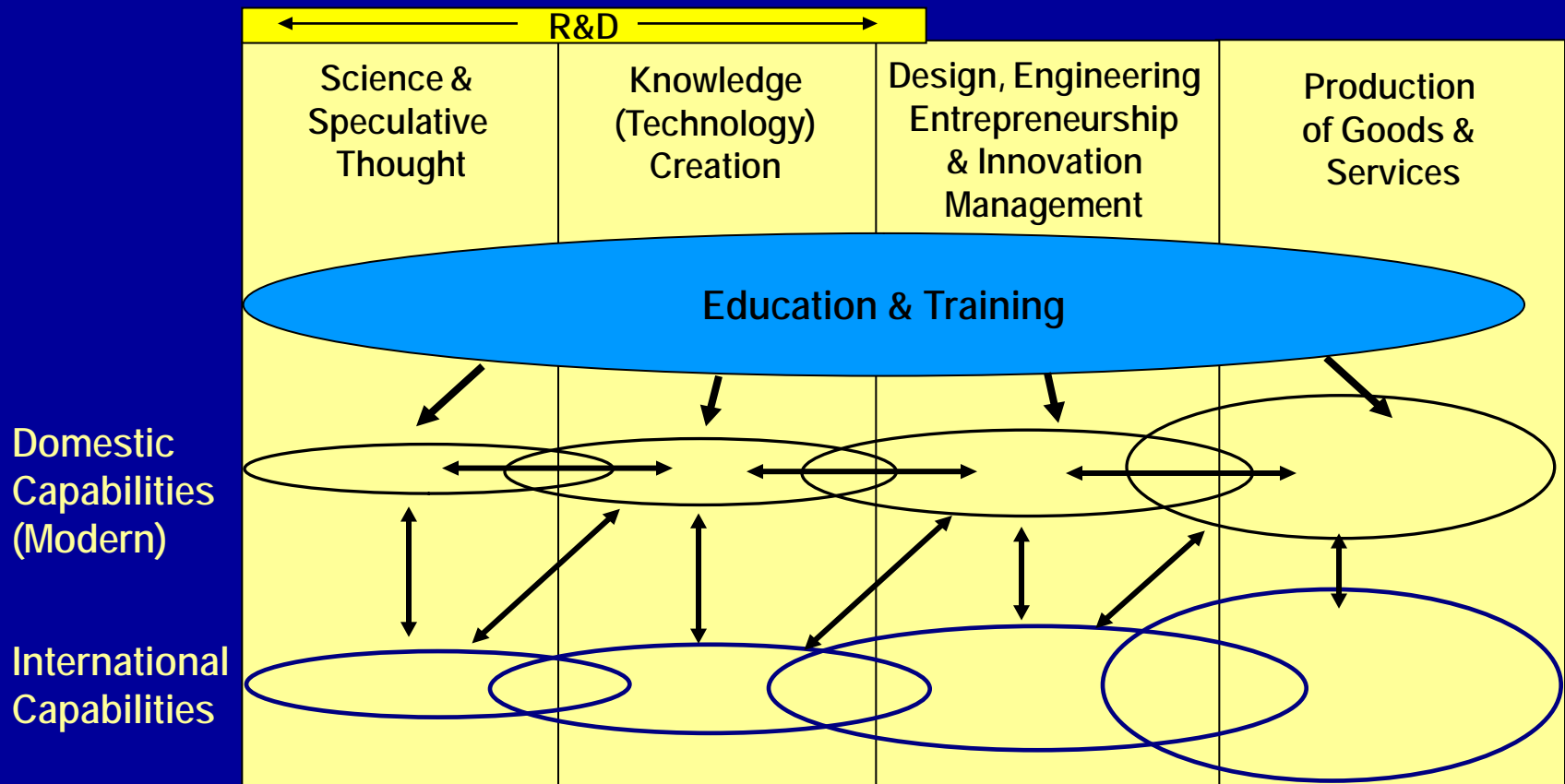
- **“use of new ideas, technologies or ways of doing things, in a place (or by people) where they have not been used before**
- **Broader view Vs conventional notion of innovation (businesses, R&D based)**



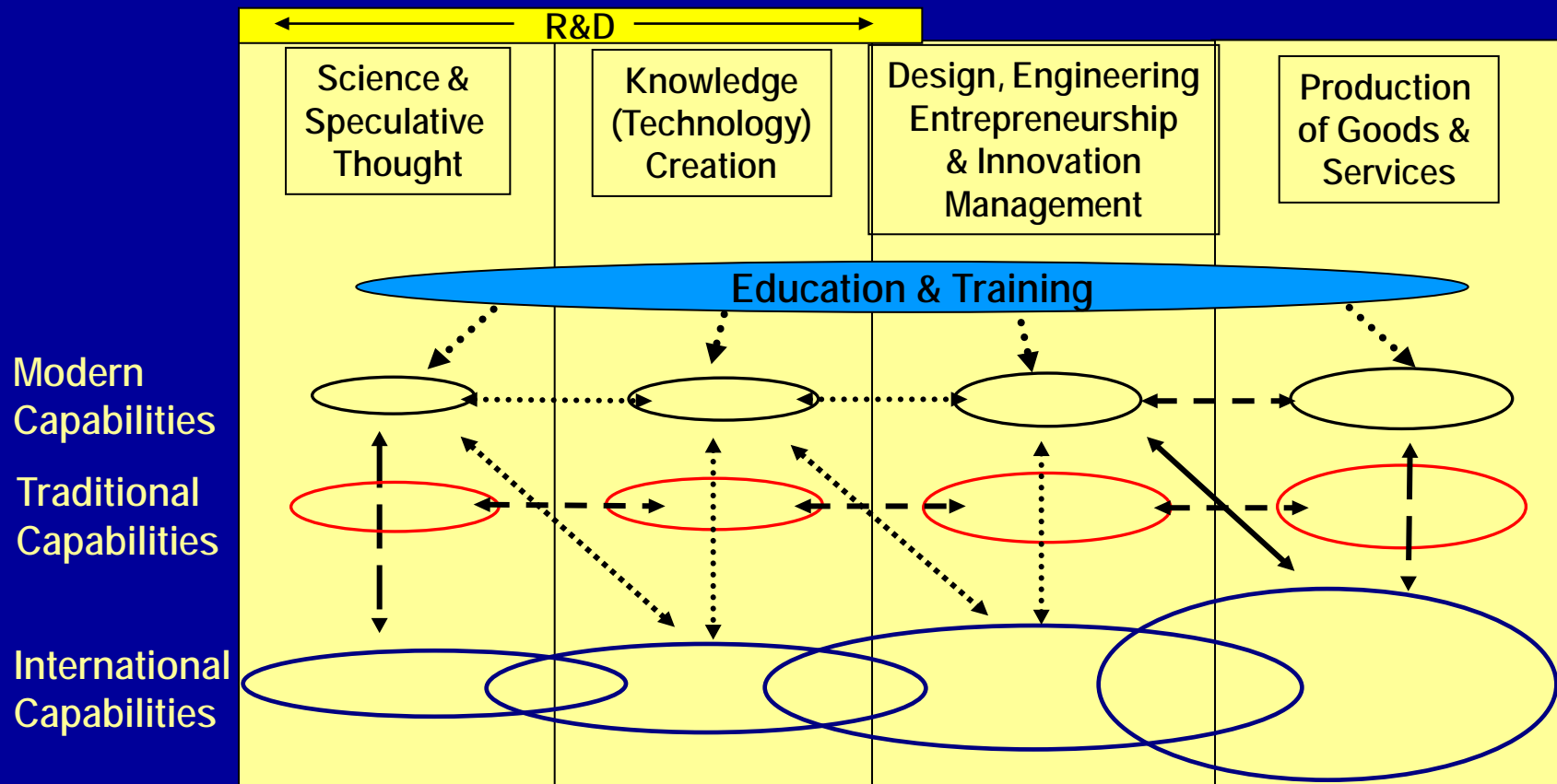
## Innovation systems in developing countries

- **what are they? Why are they so evasive to describe, characterize, measure or upscale?**
- **Do they exist at all ?**

# Innovation Systems in Developed Countries



# Innovation Systems in Developing Countries





Innovations happen all the time in developing countries – in myriad ways

## **Examples -**

- We are still finding tools, methods and frameworks to understand them better.**
- ITS work has been precisely in this direction from the past nearly 4 years**





## Innovation for the social agenda

- **“Invisible” innovation actors – small time informal businesses, women’s groups,**
- **Grassroots innovators...**
- **Weak / dysfunctional knowledge linkage**
  - **dependent on external conditions**





## Innovation for the social agenda

- **Serving locally and contextually relevant objectives**
- **With or without state intervention but driven by stakeholder processes**
- **Role of women in innovation processes and impacts on their lives least understood**



## Gender and Innovation perspectives

- **Social inclusion – women as credible innovation system actors**
- **Efficiency – skills and human capital**
- **Rights – gainful employment and socio-economic development**
- **Decision making and governance**



# Global call for proposals along two thematic directions

- **Involvement and influence of women in innovation process**
- **Impacts of (specific) innovation systems on women**



# Women in innovation systems – role and influence

## Examples

- **In what ways will greater engagement of women in a specific context of innovation contribute to economic / social value?**
- **Will higher enrolment of women in technical education and employment fill the gender gap in innovation?**
- **What are the key / distinct features of technology-business entrepreneurship for and by women**



## Women in Innovation systems – role and influence

- **How does the agency of women in business enterprises manifest itself in the innovation process?**
- **What socio-economic profiles of women enable their influence on technology governance and policy process**
- **Does a higher gender balance trigger more innovation and if so what are the impacts of this higher balance on innovation?**





Impacts of (specific innovations on the lives of women (current and anticipated)

## **Examples**

- **Guiding principles for an engendered approach to technology regulation and policy**
- **In what ways do current technologies for water and sanitation impact women?**





## Impacts of (specific innovations on the lives of women ( current and anticipated)

- **Are there gender biases in the diffusion and / or impacts of specific technologies, such as biotechnology, nanotechnology and ICTs?**
- **What are the opportunities for policy harmonisation to enable women to contribute to innovation processes?**
- **Does the knowledge economy and technological development promote greater knowledge and skills development of women?**



Potentially connects to other work of ITS and could draw from:

- **Benchmarking rural innovation capacity - focus on “below the radar” innovations and actors**
- **Capability, governance and nanotechnology – water, health and energy sectors in India**
- **Social technologies in Latin America**
- **Socially inclusive innovations in China and India – women in agriculture innovations in poverty dominant areas**



This project launch

**8 different country perspectives on gender and innovation in different sectors**

- **Agricultural innovation and technology**
- **Technology and innovation in water resource management**
- **Livelihoods and enterprises**
- **Governance and decision making**

**Afghanistan, Bolivia, India, Pakistan, Palestine, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia**



This project launch

**Better understanding - gender manifests itself  
in innovation + impacts on women**

**Individually and collectively – what lessons can  
be learnt for policy and institutional changes**  
- **Innovations that are more inclusive of  
gender perspectives**



## To be accomplished

- **Project commencement – exchange and learning**
- **Finalise work plan and fine tune methodology**
- **Explore comparative / collaborative agenda**
- **Prepare to communicate strategically to a variety of audiences**
- **Mechanism for networking, sharing and communication**
- **Have fun !!**



# Thank you

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